

Sound to the valley of the Upper Yukon, southern Mackenzie, southern Keewatin, and Gulf of St. Lawrence." The Gulf of St. Lawrence does not extend south of latitude  $45^{\circ} 35_1$  N., while Cook's Beach is in latitude  $43^{\circ} 44_1$  N., so that it is evident that the breeding-range of this bird extends farther south than was supposed.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Quebec, P. Q.*

**The Cowbird's Whistle.**—During a visit of five days at Jamestown, R. I., July 3-7, 1915, I frequently heard a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) whistle in the following manner. He gave two long whistles, inflected upward, followed by three short, quick whistles on a lower pitch. His only variation was to omit one of the long whistles. This bird interested me not a little, for in Lexington, Mass., where the Cowbird is common—especially in the spring and early summer—I have noted a remarkable uniformity in its note. The Lexington birds give one long whistle followed by two short ones—never more and never less.

I should not have ventured to call attention to this Jamestown bird, if the matter had not been brought to my memory by another Cowbird (presumably another one) at exactly the same spot in Jamestown. On May 2, 1919, as I was passing the corner of the road where I had heard the bird four years before, a Cowbird uttered a long whistle, then two short ones, and concluded the series with another long whistle. This performance was not exactly the same, to be sure, as that heard in 1915, yet it was similar to it, and, at the same time, very different from our Lexington birds. During the spring of 1919 I noticed repeatedly a similar extension in the whistling of another Cowbird, two or three miles away in Saundertown, R. I., although other Cowbirds near at hand whistled as the Lexington birds do.

A small matter, all this, perhaps, yet in the light of Mr. Saunders' illuminating demonstration in his article on Geographical Variation in Song ('The Auk,' 1919, pp. 525-528) the thought suggests itself that there may be many minor variations in bird-songs, slight in direct proportion to the distance separating varying birds. Possibly these Rhode Island Cowbirds presented a variation of a longer song of which I am ignorant, but which may be heard in the southern states.—WINSOR M. TYLER, M.D., *Lexington, Mass.*

**Dance of Purple Finch.**—The following description of the ecstatic movements of a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*) is interesting in the light of recent discussion. At six-fifteen (Eastern Time) on the afternoon of May 16, 1920, my wife called my attention to a male Purple Finch fluttering among the branches of our cherry tree. A female Purple Finch was soon discovered sitting quietly in the same tree. The male remained about five feet from the female, taking short, nervous flights, raising his crest and softly uttering the call note. In a few moments the female flew down to the ground. At once the male followed and became violently excited, drawing his quivering wings out in an arc